Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A method for execution by an encoding device, comprising:

encoding data defining a graphic image in the form of a region within an active video area, wherein pixels forming the region are encoded as n-bit pixels, ~~and~~

encoding a map table for mapping the n-bit pixels to a first ~~colour~~color-look-up-table having more than 2^n entries, and

encoding a compatibility code indicating a required minimum number of entries of a second color-look-up-table having fewer than 2^n entries.

20 (Canceled)

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the region is a rectangular region and the encoded data includes the size and position of the rectangular region.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the encoded data for the region further includes a time stamp representing the time at which the region is to be displayed.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, including encoding a visibility code to disable the display of the region.

24. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein a region comprises a plurality of subregions, at least one of the subregions including an identifier code to allow a graphic image defined by the subregion to be referred to by a further region.

25. (Previously presented) The method of claim 19, wherein the encoded data is accommodated in a private transport stream according to the MPEG2 standard or extension thereof.

26. (Currently amended) A method for execution by a receiving device, comprising:

receiving encoded data defining a graphic image in the form of a region for display within an active video area, ~~decoding the encoded data into~~ wherin the encoded data includes pixels represented by n-bits~~; receiving,~~ map table data, and a compatibility code that indicates a required minimum number of entries in a color-look-up-table at the receiving device; and

if a number of entries of the color-look-up-table at the receiving device is less than the required minimum number of entries, disabling the generation of the display of the graphic image, and

if the number of entries of the color-look-up-table is greater than 2^n entries, ~~storing the map table data in a map table for~~ mapping the n-bit pixels to ~~a~~ the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table ~~having more than 2^n entries~~ based on the map table data.

27 (Canceled)

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the region is a rectangular region and the encoded data includes the size and position of the rectangular region, and the method includes decoding the size and position of the region, storing the pixels, and generating display signals representing the pixels at the position.

29. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, including decoding a time stamp included in the encoded data, and generating display signals from a time represented by the time stamp.

30. (Previously presented) The method of claim 29, including decoding a visibility code included in subsequent encoded data for a given region, and disabling the generation of the display signals for the region in response to the visibility code.

31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the region includes a plurality of subregions including an identifier code, and the method includes including the subregion in a further region that references the identifier code.

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein the video signal is encoded according to an MPEG2 standard or extension thereof, and wherein the encoded data defining the graphic image is accommodated in packets of an MPEG2 private transport stream.

33. (Currently amended) A transmitter that is configured to transmit:

encoded data defining a graphic image in the form of a region within an active video area, wherein pixels forming the region are encoded as n-bit pixels, ~~and~~

a map table for mapping the n-bit pixels to a first ~~colour~~color-look-up-table having more than 2^n entries, and

a compatibility code indicating a required minimum number of entries of a second color-look-up-table having fewer than 2^n entries.

34. (Currently amended) A receiver coupled to a display screen that is configured to receive encoded data defining a graphic image in the form of a region for display within an active video area, and includes:

a color-look-up table having a number of entries;

a decoder that is configured to decode the encoded data into pixels represented by n-bits, ~~and~~ map table data, and an indication of a required minimum number of entries in the color-look-up-table;

a controller that is configured to disable display of the graphic image if the number of entries in the color-look-up-table is less than the required minimum number of entries, and

a mapper that is configured to map the n-bit pixels to ~~a~~ the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table for generating the display of the graphic image based on the map table data, if the number of entries is greater ~~having more~~ than 2^n ~~entries~~.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Currently amended) A storage medium on which an image signal is stored in a form that provides a display of one or more images based on the image signal when the medium is read by a receiving system, the medium comprising encoded data defining a graphic image in the form of a region within an active video area, wherein the pixels forming the region are encoded as n-bit pixels, the encoded data further including a map table for mapping the n-bit pixels to a ~~colour~~color-look-up-table at the receiving system having more than 2^n entries, and a compatibility code for disabling the display of at least one of the one or more images if the color-look-up-table at the receiving system has fewer than an indicated minimum number of entries.

37. (Previously presented) The transmitter of claim 33, including an encoder that is configured to encode the n-bit pixels and the map table data of the encoded data.

38-39 (Canceled)

40. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, including encoding the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table.

41. (Currently amended) The method of claim 26, including receiving ~~colour~~color-look-up-data and storing the ~~colour~~color-look-up-data in the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table.

42. (Currently amended) The transmitter of claim 33, wherein the transmitter is configured to transmit data for storing in the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table.

43. (Currently amended) The receiver of claim 34, wherein the encoded data includes ~~colour~~color-look-up-data and the decoder is configured to decode the ~~colour~~color-look-up-data and storing the ~~colour~~color-look-up-data in the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table.

44. (Currently amended) The storage medium of claim 36, wherein the encoded data includes color-look-up data for storing in the ~~colour~~color-look-up-table.